

Message Text

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ORIGIN SIL-01

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ELAB SF

SUBJ: ICFTU PROMOTING "WEEK OF ACTION" AGAINST SA
REF: EC BRUSSELS 11605
FYI. THE DEPARTMENT IS INFORMED THAT AFL-CIO PRESIDENT
GEORGE MEANY SENT ON DECEMBER 13 THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM
IN RESPONSE TO THE ICFTU REQUEST FOR AFL-CIO SUPPORT FOR
THE ICFTU'S "WEEK OF ACTION" AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA:

QUOTE:
OTTO KERSTEN
INTERCONFED
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

REFERENCE YOUR CABLE CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND A
WEEK OF TRADE UNION ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, PLEASE BE
ADVISED THAT THE AFL-CIO WILL CONTINUE ITS PUBLIC AND LONG-
STANDING OPPOSITION TO THE APARTHEID POLICY OF THE GOVERN-
MENTS OF RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, THE AFL-
CIO WILL NOT JOIN IN ANY MOMENTARY ACTIVITY WHICH INDICATES
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THE MISCONCEPTION OF OR BLINDNESS TO THE DOUBLE STANDARD

OF SELECTING CERTAIN REPRESSIVE REGIMES FOR ATTACK AND
OTHERS FOR CURRYING FAVOR. THE AFL-CIO WILL SUPPORT
MEASURES WHICH APPLY SANCTIONS AGAINST REPRESSIVE REGIMES
WHEN THOSE ACTIONS ARE TAKEN WITH THE FULL UNDERSTANDING
THAT COERCIVE AND BRUTAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS ARE INDIVISIBLE

IN THE EYES OF FREE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN THE WORLD OVER.
ANY OTHER POSITION MOCKS THE GRAVE AND PERILOUS CONDITIONS
OF MILLIONS OF WORKERS IN BONDAGE TO DICTATORIAL AND
MINORITY REGIMES ON EVERY CONTINENT AND WOULD AID AND
ENCOURAGE OPPRESSORS, NOT THE OPPRESSED. /S/ GEORGE MEANY
UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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NNN

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